

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9663

INFO AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM PRIORITY

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AMEMBASSY PARIS PRIORITY

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C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 06766

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, SW, ASEC, SW, GW

SUBJECT: STOCKHOLM TERRORISM: SCHMIDT BUNDESTAG SPEECH

1. CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT GAVE A 20-MINUTE SPEECH TO THE BUNDESTAG APRIL 25 ON THE TERRORIST ATTACK ON THE GERMAN EMBASSY IN STOCKHOLM. THE MAIN PURPOSE OF SCHMIDT'S PRESENTATION WAS TWO-FOLD: A) TO MAKE CLEAR THAT THE GOVERNMENT DECISION NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS WAS SHARED BY, AND HAD THE FULL SUPPORT OF, ALL POLITICAL PARTIES; B) TO WIN BROAD POPULAR SUPPORT FOR THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION, AND CALL ON THE POPULATION TO IDENTIFY FULLY WITH THE GOVERNMENT'S EFFORTS TO DEAL WITH TERRORISM AND DEFEND PUBLIC ORDER. SCHMIDT SAID HE ASSUMED SOME PEOPLE WOULD QUESTION WHY THE GOVERNMENT HAD DECIDED NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS IN THE STOCKHOLM CASE, WHEN IT HAD NEGOTIATED IN THE LORENZ INCIDENT. HE WAS CONCERNED TO MAKE THE POINT THAT THERE WERE NO DOUBLE STANDARDS

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INVOLVED. HE STRESSED THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO

CASES, ONE BEING THAT IT WAS IMPOSSIBLE TO DETERMINE WHERE LORENZ WAS BEING HELD BY HIS KIDNAPPERS, AND THUS NEGOTIATION WAS MORE IMPERATIVE. IN ADDITION, THE STOCKHOLM TERRORISTS HAD ALREADY KILLED ONE OF THE HOSTAGES WHEN THEY MADE THEIR DEMANDS. THE CHANCELLOR ALSO STRESSED THE ENORMITY OF THE DEMAND FOR THE RELEASE OF 26 HARD CORE TERRORIST PRISONERS. FOR THE GOVERNMENT TO HAVE GIVEN IN WOULD HAVE AMOUNTED TO A CAPITULATION OF AUTHORITY WHICH WOULD HAVE HAD THE GRAVEST CONSEQUENCES FOR THE FUTURE. SCHMIDT'S PERFORMANCE WAS MOST IMPRESSIVE. HE EXUDED STATESMANSHIP, COOLNESS, HUMANITY AND DECISIVENESS. HIS EXPRESSIONS OF THANKS TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT FOR THEIR COOPERATION ELICITED SUSTAINED APPLAUSE.

2. FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER FLEW TO STOCKHOLM APRIL 25 TO REVIEW THE SITUATION ON THE SPOT, INCLUDING PRE-SUMABLY DISCUSSIONS WITH THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT AND CONSULTATIONS WITH THE FRG EMBASSY STAFF. THE FRG GOVERNMENT SPOKESMAN IN HIS PRESS BRIEFING, APRIL 25, NOTED THAT THERE IS NO EXTRADITION TREATY BETWEEN THE FRG AND SWEDEN. HE ALSO REVEALED THAT SCHMIDT HAD SUGGESTED TO THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT THAT THE TERRORISTS BE LET GO FREE ON CONDITION THEY RELEASED THE HOSTAGES. THE SPOKESMAN SAID THIS SUGGESTION HAD MET WITH PALME'S SUPPORT.

3. COMMENT: SCHMIDT WAS FOLLOWED IN THE BUNDESTAG BY CDU FRAKTION LEADER CARSTENS WHO USED THE OCCASION IN PART TO IMPLY PAST SOFTNESS ON THE PART OF THE GOVERNMENT TOWARD TERRORIST ELEMENTS IN THE FRG. WITH THE KEY LAND ELECTION IN NORTH-RHINE WESTPHALIA (AND ALSO THE ELECTION IN THE SAAR) DUE MAY 4, THE INTERNAL SECURITY ISSUE, WHICH HAD SUBSIDED AFTER THE LORENZ AFFAIR, SEEMS SURE TO PLAY A MAJOR ROLE. IT IS DIFFICULT TO ASSESS THE IMPACT OF THE STOCKHOLM INCIDENT AND THE GOVERNMENT'S HANDLING OF IT ON THE ELECTIONS, BUT WE ARE INCLINED TO BELIEVE THE GOVERNMENT'S DECISION NOT TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE TERRORISTS WILL MEET WITH GENERAL APPROVAL ON THE PART OF THE ELECTORATE. THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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ESTIMATE MIGHT SEEM TO BE SOMEWHAT IN CONTRADICTION TO THE FINDING THAT THE MAJORITY OF THE GERMAN POPULATION BELIEVED THE GOVERNMENT DID THE RIGHT THING IN NEGOTIATING IN THE LORENZ CASE. BUT THE KEY POINT IS THE PALPABLE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE LORENZ AND STOCKHOLM CASES, PARTICULARLY ON THE POINT STRESSED BY SCHMIDT, NAMELY THE SCOPE OF THE TERRORISTS DEMANDS AND THE IMPLICATIONS, IF THEY HAD

BEEN MET, FOR GENERAL DETERIORATION OF PUBLIC ORDER.

HILLENBRAND

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